



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## **Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Annual Report for 2010**





# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## **Our Mission**

*It is the mission of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team to support the Office of the Sheriff and citizens of Contra Costa County by maintaining a mission ready and professionally trained team capable of urban, suburban and wilderness search and rescue, disaster response, incident management and support for criminal investigations.*

### **Board of Directors**

President and SAR Captain – Rick Kovar  
Vice President and Executive Officer – Frank Moschetti  
Secretary and Executive Officer – Bryan Walley  
Treasurer and SAR Fiscal Control Lieutenant – Paul T. Jones

### **2010 Subordinate Officers of the Board**

SAR Operations Lieutenant – Mark Trevor  
SAR Training Lieutenant – Chris Nichols  
SAR Resources Lieutenant – Karyn Corcoran  
SAR Personnel Lieutenant – Ed Molascon  
SAR Administration Lieutenant – Laury Clymer  
SAR Logistics Lieutenant – Rick Najarian

### **2010 Advisors of / to the Board**

Sheriff's Office Liaison – Sgt. Daryl England



***So That Others May Live...***



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



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*So That Others May Live...*



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## Message from the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office

### Sheriff's Office Mission:

*The Office of the Sheriff exists to serve the community. The protection of people and their property is our primary responsibility. Honor, Courage, Commitment, Leadership and Teamwork shall be the core values employed as we serve the citizens of Contra Costa County. The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff will provide the most efficient and effective law enforcement services possible. These services will be rendered with the most effective expenditure of available resources.*

The Contra Costa County Search and Rescue Team is made up of a group of individuals that epitomize the very essence of our Mission Statement. The Office of the Sheriff will continue to foster a Volunteer Services Unit that provides a growing and productive environment to encourage participation and accomplishment. By doing our part as host to our committed Volunteers, we will continue to see expansion in our Team's success and capabilities.



*So That Others May Live...*



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## Search & Rescue Captain's Message

I am continually amazed at the dedication and commitment of our team members. In 2010 the Contra Costa County Search and Rescue program volunteers donated over 50,000 hours of service to the Office of the Sheriff, providing services to over 23 different law enforcement agencies, one-third to agencies outside of Contra Costa County. Time was spent on search missions, medical event support, monthly trainings, PR details, and team administration.

In 2001 the Search and Rescue (SAR) program boasted 59 members. Today, we have over 200 very dedicated SAR professionals, representing one of the largest SAR programs in the State of California. And beyond size, there is depth and breadth, with specialized resource teams that include K9, horses, mountain bikes, urban search and rescue, metal detectors, tracking and mountain rescue.

To maintain a high level of readiness, capability, and capacity, the team commits to a significant amount of training. Between basic and specialized trainings, the Contra Costa Sheriff's Search and Rescue program averages 1.5 training's per day in the calendar year. While that number seems difficult to fathom, one look at the size, depth and breadth of our team makes that number readily believable.

One component of our team is a Nationally Certified Mountain Rescue Association team, which can be deployed to any environment in the State of California when someone's life is at risk or lost, such as a callout this year for a missing snowboarder at Alpine Meadows. Our K9 program is a major player in K9 search operations in the region. Our Explorer program, which supports teen Search and Rescue members who undergo all of the same training as other members, has grown this year and remains a valuable component of our team.

While the Office of the Sheriff provides incredible support to the team and its operations, we do require fundraising to augment our initiatives. We are thankful for all of the individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations who provided financial support last year (Please see the Supporters section).

As we enter 2011, we will continue to provide mutual aid support to out of county missions as requested. In addition, there will be intense focus on our core basic urban search and rescue capabilities in order to be fully prepared for the next natural disaster that we know will strike in the coming years. And above all else, we will continue to build on our mission capabilities, searching for and rescuing those in need. So in 2011, members of this team will continue to commit thousands of hours to training and preparation, all **so that others may live.**



***So That Others May Live...***



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## About CoCoSAR

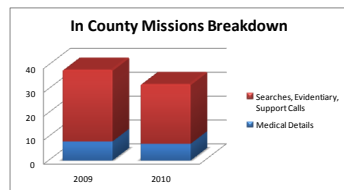
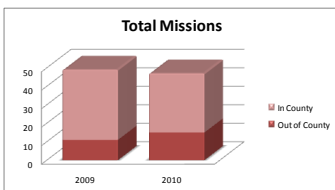


The Contra Costa County Search & Rescue Team is operated under the auspices of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, with SAR Captain Rick Kovar as its President. Along with Captain Kovar, all other management and administrative duties are performed by volunteers who contribute their time to those roles on top of the hours committed to trainings and searches.

Operated as a separate 501(c)(3), the team has two Divisions: Administration and Operations. The Administration Division manages personnel (new member recruitment and member recognition), administration (tracking hours), logistics (managing and maintaining equipment), and fiscal control (managing the finances and non-profit operations).

The Operations Division is charged with operations which includes all specialized resource teams, training, and performing after action reports on searches.

Together this team leads the organization, ensuring members are trained, prepared and equipped to fulfill the mission.



*So That Others May Live...*



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## Commitment to Serve - 2010 Missions

The variety and scope of missions completed in 2010 illustrate the breadth and depth of the team. Because of the team's size and specialized training, there are numerous callouts each year for out of county searches, providing mutual aid support to those counties with fewer resources or facing searches that require more manpower or different skills.

One such example was the rescue of a hiker in Marin County who had fallen down a cliff, with CoCoSAR members participating in her roped extraction. Another is the rescue of a snowshoer in Placer County in March of 2010, suffering from hypothermia and altitude sickness, successfully extracted by members of CoCoSAR's Mountain Rescue team.



A significant number of our missions are searches for elderly persons suffering from some form of memory impairment. It is critical to locate these frail seniors in a timely manner using a systematic and effective search management process and then to be prepared to carefully assess their physical condition and get them appropriate medical care.



Aside from searches, a large part of our mission centers on providing medical detail support at key community events like the County Fair and Devil Mountain Run. Because of the quick work of one of our teams, a man suffering a heart attack at the Diablo Trails Challenge was assessed and gotten the appropriate medical treatment and transport, saving his life.

A key component of our training centers on being prepared for anything. At a public relations event, the quick action of some CoCoSAR members saved the life of a man who was choking. Aside from medical details and typical missing person searches, the team is often called upon to perform evidentiary and weapons searches.



*So That Others May Live...*



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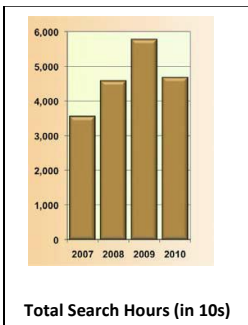
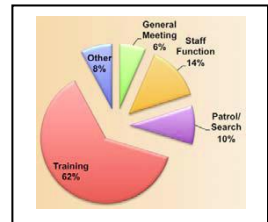


## Commitment to Training

Contra Costa Search and Rescue is committed to upholding the highest standards of training for its team. Training for a Search and Rescue member begins the moment they join the team with the first Academy for Type III ground pounders consisting of approximately 60 hours of classroom and field work.

The Type II Academy certifies a member for rougher terrain and out-of-county searches and adds another 38 hours. In addition, almost half the team has been certified as First Responders which layers on another 96 hours. Finally, the Type I Academy, which certifies a rescuer as part of the Mountain Rescue Group, requires still more hours of training, both classroom, field and overnight backpacking trips.

To keep skills sharp and to train on specific disciplines such as swift water or tracking, team trainings are held monthly. All told, a SAR member spends about 6 hours training for every 1 hour spent searching.



The average number of hours a member commits to the team annually is **235 hours**; the median is **170 hours** annually. As a team, approximately **50,000 hours** total were contributed each of last 3 years.

*Thank you to our volunteer members for your time and commitment!*



*So That Others May Live...*



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## **Administration Highlights – 2010**

The functioning of a 200+ person team requires a significant amount of volunteer time in order to ensure smooth operations. Aside from training and missions, a core group of members commit additional time to perform those administrative functions.

One highlight from 2010 was the reestablishment of the Preventative Search and Rescue program designed to educate the public so that they do not become the subject of a mission. An important emphasis of this program is being placed on the development of Alzheimer's and dementia education program and resource packet.

With a team of this size, recruitment and communication are critical to maintaining strength and fostering connections with one another and the team at large. A redesigned web site in 2010 has allowed the team to leverage this platform to provide greater online resources to its team members and enhanced opportunities to communicate and connect. It also plays an important role in new member recruitment.

Aside from trained search management and ground pounders, a search takes equipment: map plotters, printers, computers, radios, ropes, backboards, oxygen, and first aid supplies, just to name a few. The Logistics team inventories, tracks, and maintains that inventory. In 2010, they developed critical maintenance and tracking systems, ensuring the team is appropriately supplied to fulfill its missions.

These represent just a few examples of the work accomplished in 2010.



***So That Others May Live...***



# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## Financial Performance

### Income:

Donations	\$17,742
Memorials	\$ 1,540
Other	<u>\$10,725</u>

**Total Income:** \$30,007

### Expenses:

Executive Division	\$ 1,491
Operations Division	\$37,644
Administration Division	<u>\$ 8,308</u>

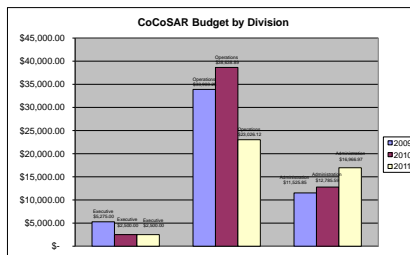
**Total Expenses:** \$47,443

**Net Operating Loss:** \$(17,436) [see Footnotes]

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> \$12,000: Reflects purchase and build-out of an Urban Search and Rescue truck, subsequently transferred to the Sheriff's office.

<sup>2</sup> \$3,000: Reflects purchase of team shirts which will be recaptured in 2011 through sales to team members.



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# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



## Our Supporters

The Board of Directors would like to thank all of the members of the volunteer team who donated their time, skills, and funds in 2010. Your continued dedication and support of the "Mission" enables us to serve the community of Contra Costa County.

A special "thank you" to our Corporate and Community partners, whose continued financial support and gift-in-kind donations allow our mission to take flight.

### Corporate Giving Programs:

- AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
- Bank of America Foundation
- Berkeley Association of Realtors
- Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program
- Community Health Charities of California
- IBM Employee Services
- Macy's Foundation Matching Gift
- PG&E Corporate Campaign for the Community
- Save Mart Family of Stores
- Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

### Local Business and Community Support:

- Brenden Theaters
- Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA)
- Pleasant Hill Community Foundation
- R. Paul Bonnar, Attorney at Law
- Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria
- Sports Basement
- Skipolini's Pizza

### In Kind Support:

- Mountain Hardware
- PsPrint.com



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# Contra Costa County SEARCH & RESCUE



To make a donation in support of our mission or to contact us:

Contra Costa Country Search & Rescue Team  
50 Glacier Dr.  
Martinez, CA 94553

Or find us on the web at:  
[www.ContraCostaSAR.org](http://www.ContraCostaSAR.org)



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